



Planning Commission Acts on COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Planning Commission considered 14 proposed amendments to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan at a special meeting May 19. Commissioners voted to follow the staff recommendations on all the proposed amendments, with one modification, accepted by staff.

The change extends the study area for a proposed Highway 2 corridor transportation study from the 56th Street/Old Cheney/ Highway 2 intersection south to 66th Street. Several of the proposed amendments would permit more land to be developed for urban residential use or advance the phasing of other tracts already designated for such use, reflecting the continuing high demand for new housing at the City's edges. The Comprehensive Plan amendments are scheduled for a joint public hearing by the City Council and County Board at 4 pm June 15 in the Hearing Chambers of the County-City building.

The Planning Commission also took public comments at its May 19 meeting on the new proposed six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Lincoln. Commissioners voted that all the proposed projects were consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Public comments on the CIP included proposals to add more projects, along with some debate about how much certainty should be attached to the inclusion of projects in later years of the document. The Mayor will submit her proposed CIP to

the City Council in late June, along with the proposed operating budget for the next fiscal year.

For more information about the Comp Plan amendments or the CIP, contact Duncan Ross in the Planning Department at 441-7603 or dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us.



Council approves new floodplain rules



The City Council voted May 10 to approve new floodplain regulations, essentially as they had been recommended by the Mayor's Floodplain Task Force and Public Works staff. Key changes are as follows: 1) In Lincoln's 3-mile jurisdiction, just outside the City limits, any floodplain fill must be designed to prevent any rise in floodplain elevations and must provide additional storage area to compensate for any fill; 2) Inside and outside the City limits, any creek channel with definable bed and bank that drains more than 25 acres of land must provide a minimum natural buffer area on each side of the channel. Only property that has been platted or for which a preliminary plat has been approved is "grandfathered" from these new provisions. For more information on the new rules, contact Nicole Fleck-Tooze at the Watershed Management Office of Public Works and Utilities at 441-6173 or ntooze@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

MAYOR APPOINTS TASK FORCE ON GROUP HOMES

Mayor Seng has appointed a task force of citizens and local staff to review the current zoning regulations and other factors affecting the location of group homes and other congregate care facilities in Lincoln. The adopted Comprehensive Plan calls for this review, and the recent stabbing incident at a group home in the Capitol Beach area has highlighted attention to this topic. Prior to that incident, local group home providers had expressed their concern to the Law Department that the current zoning requirements are inconsistent with the federal Fair Housing Act and need to be made more flexible.

Task force members include Planning Commissioner Jon Carlson, who will chair the task force; Roger Massey, former Planning Commissioner, HUD regional administrator and current aid to Congressman Bereuter; Jim Blue, executive director of Cedars Youth Services; Larry Potratz, Executive Director of the Lincoln Housing Authority; and staff from several City and County departments. Local providers, state regulators and neighborhood representatives will participate as resource members to the task force, which is expected to complete its review in the next four months.

For more information on group home regulations, contact Greg Czaplewski at 441-7620 or gczaplewski@ci.lincoln.ne.us.



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